

Petition: Bans on fossil fuel advertisements in public spaces are sound policy

Bans on fossil fuel advertisements de-normalise fossil fuel use without limiting the freedom of citizens to make their own consumption decisions. These bans are urgently needed. A large body of academics therefore supports the following statements:

- 1 **Bans on fossil fuel advertisements in public spaces, [defined](#) as “advertising about fossil fuel products and services, holidays involving air travel, flight tickets, fossil electricity contracts, cruise travel, or cars with a fossil or hybrid engine”, are fully aligned with the recommendations of four different, renowned scientific bodies in the Netherlands: the [Council for the Environment and Infrastructure](#), the [Scientific Climate Council](#), the [Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency](#), and [TNO](#). Each of them independently advised the Government of the Netherlands to implement a ban on advertisements for carbon-intensive products.**
- 2 **Fossil fuel advertisements block the transition to a sustainable society; a ban on fossil fuel advertisements stimulates sustainability transitions.** A council of 12 social scientists and ethicists reached this conclusion in [independent advice](#) to the House of Representatives of the Netherlands:
- 3 **Banning fossil fuel advertisements is lawful under Dutch and European Law, [International law experts concluded](#).**
- 4 **Banning fossil fuel advertisements through local legislation is possible and legal and more and more Dutch municipalities are taking this step.** Travel Industry Association ANVR and tour operator TUI sued The Hague in 2024 as it was the first municipality to take this step. [The court ruled](#) on 25 April 2025 that municipalities may ban fossil fuel advertisements. Utrecht, Delft, Nijmegen, Leiden, Zwolle and Deventer have since followed The Hague’s example, adopting resolutions towards a legal ban.

These statements are supported by the following, largely Netherlands-based, academics:

Dr Marjan Smeulders, Radboud University, microbiology; Prof. dr. Geert-Jan Kroes, Leiden University, Chemistry; Dr Marion I. van den Heuvel, Tilburg University, Social Sciences; Associate Professor Paul Raekstad, University of Amsterdam, Political Science; Dr Maien Sachisthal, UvA Environmental Psychology; Dr Sascha Heckert, Amsterdam UMC, Medicine; Dr Juliette Alenda, Radboud University, Political economy; Inge Schrijver, Universiteit Leiden, Ecological economics; Dr Like Fokkens, Wageningen University & Research, Evolutionary Biology; ir. Rutger Schilpzand, retired, human nutrition; Yannick van den Berg, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Law; Dr Gerben ter Riet, Hogeschool van Amsterdam & Amsterdam Universitair Medisch Centrum, Epidemiology; Dr Lisa Eberhard, Utrecht University, Geosciences; Drs. Camiel Box, Erasmus MC, Epidemiology; Dr Loes Gerringa, Retired from NIOZ, Marine chemistry; Dr Vincent Wiegel, HAN UAS, Engineering; MSc. Rafael Pichler, TU Delft, Hydrogen combustion; Mr David Patterson, LLM, MSc Climate change, law and public health; Dr. Ro Jefferson, Utrecht University, Theoretical Physics and Computer Science; Dr Frances Dunn, Utrecht University, Geoscience; PhD candidate Joshua Nooij, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Environmental Geography; MSc Floris, Leiden University, Chemistry; Dr John van

der Kamp, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Behavioural and movement sciences; Dr Jacqueline Hoppenreijds, Ruhr University Bochum, Ecology; Dr. Lourenco Tercio Lima Pereira, Delft University of Technology, Aerospace Engineering; Ms. Debra Solomon, PhD candidate and researcher, Multispecies Urbanism; Shivani Kaul, University of Amsterdam, Anthropology; Ir. Ronald Loeve, Climate resilient cities; Dr Disa Sauter, University of Amsterdam; Ir Gerda Lenselink, Strategische advisor, Water management; Msc Lian, Wageningen environmental research, Biodiversity & policy; Dr Christiaan Brinkerink, Radboud University, Astronomy; Dr. Dewi Le Bars, KNMI, Sea level; Dr. Vincent Perrot, Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Environmental Chemistry; Prof. dr Maarten Kleinhans, Utrecht University, Geoscience; Dr. Stijn Neuteleers, Open Universiteit, Environmental Sciences; dr. Ottho Heldring, retired lecturer at Universiteit van Amsterdam and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, philosophy; Dr. Martijn Duineveld, Universitair Hoofddocent, Cultural Geography / Governance studies; Dr. Ceciel Nieuwenhout, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, Energy law; ir. Cheryl van Adrichem, Wageningen University, Tourism and climate change; Evelyne Shamier, Universiteit Utrecht, Environmental Humanities; Prof. dr. Allard Mosk, Universiteit Utrecht, Natuurkunde; Dr. Giulia Bongiorno, Wageningen University, Soil biology; Dr Roos van Oosten, Leiden University, Archaeology; Prof. Marijke Haverkorn, Radboud University, Astrophysics; Dr. Marthe Derkzen, Wageningen University & Research, Health and environment; Prof. Arnoud Lagendijk, Radboud University, Human Geography; Dr Bahar Mehmani, Meta research; Professor Gerard Wieggers, University of Amsterdam, Study of Religion; prof. dr ir. Herman Russchenberg, Delft University of Technology, climate science; dr ir Jeroen Kluck, Hogeschool van Amsterdam, Klimaatbestendige steden; Dr. Adele Tufford, Radboud University, Sustainability; Dr. Karen Fortuin, Wageningen University, Environmental Sciences; Dr Claudia Wieners, Utrecht University, Climate physics; MSc. Eva de Bock, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Gynaecology; PhD Fabiola Müller, Planetary health; Prof. Dr. Judith Daniels, University of Groningen, Social Sciences; MSc Wouter Bos, Nedap N.V., Computer Science; Dr. Sandra Niessen, Independent Researcher, Anthropology and Human Ecology; dr. Julian Vosseberg, Wageningen University & Research, Biology; Msc. Simone Burger, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Psychology; Prof. Dr. David Thielges, NIOZ, Marine ecology; Dr. Annick de Witt, Utrecht University, Sustainability transformations; Esmee Veenstra, Utrecht University, Social and Behavioural Sciences; Emiritus Professor Sustainable Transport and Tourism Paul Peeters, Guest scholar Wageningen University & Research, Aviation and climate change; Dr Auke Pols, Wageningen University & Research, Innovation Studies; Dr. Mathilde Hagens, Wageningen University & Research, Biogeochemistry; MSc of Sciences Dante Föllmi, Teacher-Researcher, Urban Climate Adaptation; Dr Alec Badenoch, Utrecht University, Media and Cultural Studies; Ms Connie, Student Planning; Dr. Merla Kubli, TU Delft, business dynamics of low-carbon innovations; Dr Le Bot Nils, TU Delft, Architecture & urban planning; Dr Ignas Heitkönig, Wageningen University, Ecology; Helena Russello, Wageningen University, Agricultural Biosystems Engineering; Prof. dr. Anna Watts, University of Amsterdam, Astrophysics; Dr. Peter van Thienen, KWR Water Research Institute, Water; dr Antoon Meesters, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, atmospheric science; Professor Patrik Zapata, University of Gothenburg, Public Administration; PhD candidate Pieter Hovenkamp, NIOZ, Sea research; Prof dr David van Leeuwen, Radboud University, Computing Science; PhD. Ernest Aigner, Leuphana University Lüneburg, Ecological Economics; Dr. Melika Levelt, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Logistics, circular economy and sustainable food systems; Prof. Edward Huijbens, Wageningen University, Tourism Geographies; Dr Clemens Kaupa, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Law; Dr. Madeleine Brouns, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Biomedical Sciences;

Dr Kasper Lange, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Circular Economy; Dr. Lucie Sovová, Wageningen University, Rural Sociology; Dr. Reint Jan Renes, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences; Dr Antonella Maiello, Leiden University, Sustainability; dr Barbara Kump, University of Twente, Business & Sustainability; Dr Ilja J. Kocken, University of Hawaii, Paleoclimate; Prof. dr. ir. Djoerd Hiemstra, Radboud University, Computer Science; Assistant Professor Yuri Engelhardt, University of Twente, Information Visualization; Angela Caredda, Leiden University, Environmental Science; Dr. Kleerekoper, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Urban Climate Adaptation; Dr Chizu Sato, Wageningen University, Cultural Geography; Lukas Junghanns, Aalto university, transportation & urban planning; MSc Ricarda Proppert, Leiden University, Clinical Psychology; Ms Sarita Mahtani, University of Groningen, Geography and Planning; dr. Michiel Helsen, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, Glaciology & Climate Change; dr Charlotte de Vries, Universiteit Leiden, Environmental Biology; PhD Sociology Oriana Rainho Brás, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal, Social Sciences, Environment and Health; Hannah, IBED, Ecology; Dr Jan Verkade, Hydrometeorology; Johanna Waldenberger, University of Amsterdam, Post-growth; prof. Noelle Aarts, Radboud University, socio-ecological interactions; Dr Krispijn Faddegon, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences, Psychology for a sustainable city

Initiators of this petition:

Harald Buijtendijk and **Eke Eijgelaar**, Senior researchers tourism & climate change mitigation, Centre for Sustainability, Tourism and Transport, Breda University of Applied Sciences

In March 2025, together with 18 other senior scientists and tourism experts – holding between them decades of experience researching tourism's climate impact – they published an expert statement in support of the municipality of The Hague (the first city in the world banning fossil fuel advertisement through local legislation). The statement declares that a ban on advertisements for carbon intensive tourism products (aviation; cruises) is sound policy action, and firmly in line with the science on tourism's climate impact. You can read the full statement [here](#).